

MINUTES

INDIANA BOARD OF FIREFIGHTER PERSONNEL STANDARDS AND EDUCATION

**JULY 16, 2007 6PM
AUBURN FIRE DEPT.
902 GRANDSTAFF DR.
AUBURN IN 46706**

A. BOARD CALLED TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 6PM.

B. ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Roger Johnson
Thomas Hanify
Jack Kerney Sr.
Jerry Nulliner
Joe Wainscott Jr.
Gerald George
Ab Crosby
Jeff Hayes

ABSENT

Charles Hall
Darrick Scott
Candice Ashby

C. MINUTES FROM THE JUNE MEETING AND JUNE 2007 STATISTICAL REPORT.

Tom Hanify made a motion to approve the minutes. Gerald George seconded. Motion passed. Gerald George made a motion to approve the statistical report. Tom Hanify seconded. Motion passed.

D. VARIANCES

1. Craig Mueller requested variances for Rope Rescue Awareness, Operations and Technician based on training through the CMC Rescue School. Continued Education hours are enclosed. This was put on hold at the April board meeting.

Staff recommends approval. This request was prior to the office having the test ready.

Roger Johnson made a motion to table for more information on the technician level. Jack Kerney seconded. Motion passed.

2. Matthew Stewart requested variances for Structural Collapse, Awareness, Operations and Technician; Confined Space Rescue Awareness, Operations, Technician; Trench Rescue Awareness, Operations, and Technician; Swift Water Rescue Awareness, Operations, Technician; Wilderness Rescue Awareness, Operations, and Technician; Vehicle/Machinery Rescue Awareness, Operations, Technician, Rope Rescue Awareness, Operations, and Technician. These were tabled in March due to lack of continued education hours. Enclosed is his pay schedule from Professional Safety Service Group, in which he is an instructor.

Staff has no recommendation at this time.

Tom Hanify made a motion to approve. Jack Kerney seconded. Motion passed.

3. David Calvin requested a variance for Instructor 2/3. He is an Instructor 1, and he lectures at Indiana University.

Staff has no recommendation.

Joe Wainscott made a motion to deny. We have written and practical in place. Gerald George seconded. Motion passed.

4. Steve Stackhouse and 5. James Schaeffer requested a variance for Wilderness Technician I based on SAR training. Documentation enclosed.

Staff has no recommendation.

Tom Hanify made a motion to give James Schaeffer awareness, operations and technician and Steve Stackhouse technician. Gerald George seconded. Motion passed.

6. Kurtis Reed requested variances for Wilderness Rescue Awareness, Operations, and Technician based on SAR training. Documentation enclosed.

Staff has no recommendation.

Gerald George made a motion to approve. Roger Johnson seconded. Motion passed.

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|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 7. Gerard Abraham | 8. Scott Abraham |
| 9. Mark Baumgardner Jr. | 10. Bryan Bodamer |
| 11. Todd Carey | 12. Terry Ciciora |
| 13. David Crane | 14. Ryan Cusack |
| 15. Gregory DeLor | 16. Tim Fercik |
| 17. Jacob Gettler | 18. Justin Gattler |
| 19. Randy Lambert | 20. Brian Marlowe |
| 21. Cory Neises | 22. Doug Olson |
| 23. William Pause | 24. Kevin Pederson |
| 25. Kevin Radtke | 26. Mark Reed |
| 27. Erik Schmitt | 28. Larry Stott |
| 29. Steve Tobias | 30. Shawn White |
| 31. Michael Pouch | 32. Aaron Wirtz |
| 33. Nathan Young | 34. Joseph Farratella |
| 35. Michael Parks | 36. Thomas Walters |
| 37. Gary Huys | 38. Timothy Martin |
| 39. Mark Schweitzer | 40. Brad Allen |
| 41. Tim Tully | 42. Robert Szot |
| 43. David DeLor | |

requested variances for Confined Space Awareness, Rope Rescue Awareness, Structural Rescue Awareness, Swift Water Rescue Awareness, Trench Rescue Awareness, Vehicle/Machinery Rescue Awareness, and Wilderness Rescue Awareness; based on the training information enclosed.

Staff has no recommendation.

Tom Hanify made a motion to approve exception 11, 39, 43, 12, 14, 22, 24, 26, 32, and 34. He voted to table these pending further training documentation. Jack Kerney seconded. Motion passed.

44. Ronald Sassone requested a review of his test scores for Inspector ½. Letter enclosed. He is IFSAC only.

Mara Snyder stated that since he is IFSAC only, there is no action for the Board to take.

45. Richard Pohlman Jr requested a variance for Wilderness Rescue Awareness, Operations and Technician. The request is based on the enclosed documentation.

Staff has no recommendation.

Gerald George made a motion to approve. Tom Hanify seconded. Motion passed.

46. Steve White requested a variance for Swift Water Rescue Awareness and Operations; Wilderness Rescue Awareness based on training through the Fishers Fire Dept. and the enclosed certifications.

Staff has no recommendation.

Tom Hanify made a motion to approve. Written/practical testing was not in place at time of request. Gerald George seconded.

47. Russell Shoaf had requested time to discuss the variances request submitted by Shawn Grass and denied twice by the board.

Russell Shoaf did not appear at the board meeting.

48. Toby Jordan spoke about the rope rescue curriculum.

His concerns were that, with multiple textbooks being used to validate the test questions, it is difficult for an instructor to ensure that a student is provided with all the information necessary to successfully complete the certification requirements. He noted that there has been a high fail rate with the rope testing and the awareness and operations testing had 3 technician questions on the tests. He requested that the training division validate the tests to a specific curriculum.

Director Wainscott stated that the Firefighter ½ pass rate right now is 75%. The average score is 74%. Hazmat ops is around 62% pass rate. The

average score is 73% pass rate right now is 75%. The average score is 73%. This shows that we have classes doing very well, and we have classes that are scoring 60 and below. I think the problem is in the delivery of the material. He further stated that Chad Abel and some others were discussing that sometimes instructors try to rush the student through some of these courses by trying to cram everything into 2 days, when it should be taking a week. We then give them a test when they have had no time to study, or look at the material, and maybe there would be better test results if we slowed down a little. Gerald George stated that there is no curriculum out there for the rescue courses. Everything refers you back to the standard.

E. RECIPROCITY

No report at this time.

F. STATE FIRE MARSHAL REPORT – ROGER JOHNSON

The unfortunate news, since our last meeting is that we have lost 6 firefighters. Four fighters 2 nights ago, were nearly killed in a house fire. One firefighter is recovering with 1st and 2nd degree burns on the upper portion of his body. His brothers and sisters saved him using the training that they have received. We have several individuals here tonight, including Brian Kazmierzak and John Buckman, who are trying to push for more training so that this does not keep happening.

It is incumbent on all of us to keep constant attention on safety issues. John Buckman is trying to get information out on safety issues. Brian Kazmierzak stated that he and several others are willing to go out for free to teach the safety issues. Seat belt safety is a big issue.

G. HOMELAND SECURITY TRAINING DIVISION REPORT: DIRECTOR JOSEPH WAINSCOTT JR.

1. Brent Johnson Public Safety Academy of Northeast Indiana. (District 3)

Mr. Johnson provided a brief overview of the academy that is going to be where the Sears store was in Ft. Wayne. This is a 27 million dollar facility. It will be a multi-use facility. It will train fire, EMS and police. There will be 17 classrooms so there is a lot of room. It will also be an educational institution. Ivy Tech is moving their Paramedic, Fire Safety and Criminal Justice programs over to this facility. The last piece, is the federal people that really want to sue the facility for

a national platform to test the initial equipment for first responders. Ft Wayne police and fire will move in and be the anchor spots in the building. There is some talk about building an outdoor range. We have many that have been involved in this, Auburn, Bluffton, voluntary firefighters, and everyone has had a voice in this project. We will have a suite for emergencies with back up power that will hold for 72 hours in an emergency.

Joe Wainscott says that IDHS is purchasing a mobile burn trailer. It will be delivered sometime in February. There will be a training curriculum to go with and it will be available throughout the state. The Division also is looking at a similar trailer for Hazmat. All 10 districts will be receiving a training prop. Kentucky has given us their program and we will share this with the districts after we have revised it for Indiana. There are 15 different evolutions that this burn trailer can be used for and we will be sharing with everyone. All of the rescue tests are in place with the exception of Trench, Confined Space and Wilderness Rescue. These will be following in the next few weeks. We are still looking for people to help with the test validation. Anyone interested please e-mail Sam at ssteinhilber@dhs.in.gov.

H. CERTIFICATION SECTION – TONY PAGANO

1. Letters to Mr. Solomon, and Mr. Feller.

The exam that was returned as completed was several editions old. We have not had this exam on our shelves for a few years. It was a 2004 edition. I told him that the student would have to retake the correct exam.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS –JUDGE TEEGARDEN

1. Cause 07-02- Jeffrey Huber. Denial of recertification.
This is informational only. No action is required at this time.

J. OLD BUSINESS

1. 07-01 non-final order of dismissal and is ready for Board action on Richard Miller.

This if from the June meeting. The Board did not take action on this.

Tom Hanify made a motion to approve the Judges order. Jack Kerney seconded. Motion passed.

K. NEW BUSINESS

1. Variances – denial (explanation) Mara Snyder

In the letter that goes to the applicant, the board needs to explain why they are denying variance requests.

- 2 Proposed clean up of general administrative rules

There are many changes coming up. Some are drastic changes. Example:

- 1) Practical skills will be completed prior to the written test.
- 2) No oral examinations
- 3) You may retake a test as often as you need to within 180 days.
- 4) The Lead evaluator must be certified in the field he is evaluating
- 5) A proctor may be an Instructor I
- 6) The proctor cannot proctor for any test he participated in teaching
- 7) Must be an Instructor to teach, or be supervised by an Indiana Instructor. (possible financial impact) We need feedback on this one.
- 8) An Instructor I can be lead evaluator and proctor for mandatory only.

There are many more proposed changes and they are available upon request. The public hearing will be held in December in Indianapolis. Jack Kerney stated that he would like to see the practical skills be part of the overall score. The discussion was on how to base a grade on the completed skills. If all practical skills are not being completed, then people need to get with a board member, and discuss possibly dropping some of these skills.

3. Proposal to review certification requirements for instructors.

Director Joe Wainscott explained that he would like for the board to have emergency rule making decisions. This would allow the board to update standards quicker than they have been able to in the past. This requires a legislative rule change he has proposed this to Director Dietz. The audience has asked to be able to get notification when rules change. This will be made available on the web page.

L. MEETING ADJOURNED

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

NEXT MEETING

AUGUST 20, 2007

6 PM

GREENCASTLE CITY HALL

1 N LOCUST ST

GREENCASTLE IN 46135